



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 2, 2008

H.R. 2553 **Public Diplomacy Resources Centers Act of 2008**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on June 24, 2008*

H.R. 2553 would authorize the Department of State to establish and maintain libraries and resource centers at or connected with U.S. diplomatic missions. It would require the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy to report to the Congress on the functions and effectiveness of the libraries and resource centers. The department also would be required to show American films to promote American culture, society, history, and values. The act would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for those purposes.

The department has authority under current law to open and maintain libraries and resource centers overseas. The United States currently operates 378 American Corners and 182 Information Resource Centers worldwide. Both provide information about the United States to overseas audiences, but American Corners are generally established outside diplomatic missions and in partnership with host country institutions. Based on information from the department, CBO estimates that the costs of screening American films and the new reporting requirement would total less than \$500,000 a year, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2553 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On January 9, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2553 as passed by the House of Representatives on October 9, 2007. The two versions of the legislation are similar, but H.R. 2553 as passed by the House of Representatives would allow libraries and resource centers to accept and spend donations. CBO estimated the authority to accept and spend donations would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.